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- FEB 17 -

COMMUNIST CHINA
NATIONAL AFFAIRS
Nov. 5, 1958

SOONG CHING-LING ON PEOPLE'S PROGRESS

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Peking, NCNA, Radioteletype in English, to West and North Europe,
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(Text) Shanghai, Nov. 1. Madame Soong Ching-ling gives a vivid picture of the swift advance of the Chinese people in an article entitled, "A Glorious Era, A Glorious People," published in TODAY. Text of the article follows:

I have not been able to go out of my home for quite some time this year because of ill health. But the great leap forward, which is emerging in our country following the rectification campaign, has been such a great excitement that I wanted to go out and see how the people throughout China are creating mirrored unprecedented history with their tremendous energy under the leadership of the Communist Party. This wish of mine was fulfilled the moment I began my travel.

On Oct. 17, I visited the state-owned No. 17 cotton mill and, the next day, the "Jolly" people's commune. At these two places I met leading party and administrative personnel and the workers and peasants engaged in production; I met the old worker Chin Ying-jui who participated in the great Feb. 7 strike in 1923, and also a 50-year-old woman member of the commune, Chen Lin-chen, distinguished for her feats in production; I met the young, nationally known model worker, Huang Pao-mei, and also the young men and women of the "youth spunk battalion;" I also met personnel of government organizations, young students and Young Pioneers working in workshops and in the fields.

I was deeply impressed by their communist spirit, their wisdom, and their creativeness. In those two days, short as they were, I learned so much that I can well announce that they "have given me more than 10 years of reading." Since my return from my trip, I have been in a constant state of excitement and I have been stimulated by so many thoughts that I feel I must praise this era of ours and that I must praise our people.

What have I seen? What has impressed me most? First of all the tremendous energy and the communist working attitude of the people. In the state-owned No. 17 cotton mill, production in the third quarter of this year was 33 percent higher than in the corresponding period of last year. This represents a great achievement.

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Nov. 9, 1950

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Workers have performed many miracles in production and endless stories can be told about them. For instance, after the slogan of "battle for the whole day and night, carry the flag of achievement by storm," broken tools were eliminated in five hours; after working hard for eight days and nights, the speed of the machine was increased by 30 percent.

In one day and night alone five "miracles" were created. In this all-embracing great leap forward, factory directors and secretaries of party committees took the lead in going to work in factories, and workers were "live-in" in the factories. There was a repair shop of the repair shop and did not close his eyes for six days and nights. Because of increased speed in production, the supply of electricity fell short and it was necessary to install more electrical equipment. The time needed for the installation work according to original estimates was 35 shifts, but this was reduced to six work shifts after heated discussion, and the work was completed in only four shifts.

The motivating force of the textile workers in production is, first of all, the great leap forward in agriculture. When the workers learned about the bumper crops reaped in agriculture, an agitation rose immediately and demands were raised that they must exhibit the vigor of the peasants. The cotton crop gathered this year is greater than of last year, and textile workers must spin and weave it into yarn and cloth. Therefore, the workers are striving to achieve a 50 percent increase in production during this last quarter, and to achieve a 100 percent increase in production next year.

On the other hand, I have also witnessed the vigor of the peasants. Learning the less astounding. The young people of the "youth spunk brigade" of the "July" people's commune were applying manure to the fields allotted for wheat, which they had plowed five feet deep. The production target of these wheat fields next year is set at 750 tons per hectare.

The first campaign conducted by the "July" people's commune since its foundation was in deep plowing. The peasants brought out their lamps and started night operations. In six days over 50 hectares of land were deep plowed. The production brigade refused to stop work and leave although it was three or four o'clock in the morning. The secretary of the party committee tried without avail to persuade them to go home. At this moment several other production brigades arrived at the scene beating drums and flashing symbols to give the first brigade a helping hand.

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labor today is characterized by: 1) high vigor; 2) high communist spirit. Formerly, agricultural workers, more often than not, could not coordinate well with each other. Now, production brigades of people's communes mutually support and helping one another are the general practice. During the rectification campaign, eliminating broken units in the state-owned No. 17 cotton mill, Huang Pao-mei first imported her technique to her fellow-contesters in the emulation so that they could excel her. This is impossible without communist spirit. This tremendous energy displayed by the working people is obviously not intended for their individual interest, nor to gain more points or money.

As a result of battling hard for the eight-day, the eight-hour day has been overstepped. The work of the workers, now, more often than not, consists not in stimulating them to work, but in persuading them to go home to take a rest. In fact, labor is not expended for the sake of gaining remuneration.

I myself have seen in the state-owned No. 17 cotton mill a big character poster posted by all the personnel of the supply and marketing section of the mill voluntarily asking for the abolition of the quarterly bonus system for the sections. Again, take for example the film "Huang Pao-mei" which, from the writing of the scenario to the acting, was entirely undertaken by men and women workers of the factory, who refused to receive any payment from the film production company. We see from these examples the communist working attitude of "working for others without payment." This is the communist style whose height rises before us like a mountain, and it is impossible for the dwarves of imperialism and those people who are imbued with bourgeois ideology to understand it or aspire to it.

The great leap forward in production, the tremendous energy of the working people in our country are due to the correct leadership of the party, to the great flourishing of the communist spirit, to the realization of the working people that they are not working for themselves but to build socialism, to outstrip the most advanced capitalist countries in production, to enable the 600 million people of our country to eat and dress without having to pay and receive communism soon. The whole people of our country, under the leadership of the party, are working voluntarily and selflessly for the attainment of the great target. The material wealth of the 600 million people is rapidly increasing and their spirit is rapidly changing. Is this not a startling event?

The second most impressive thing is that the working people have become the real masters. They are the masters of the country. During the rectification campaign in the state-owned No. 17 cotton mill, over 8,000 workers posted 15,000 big character posters on the walls.

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When the people's commune was being set up, the enthusiasm of the people was so high that every production team sent in its application. Some brigades wrote their applications and the night sent the immediately to the commune headquarters, accompanied by the beating of drums and clashing cymbals. On their return they immediately busied themselves in night production work raising the slogan "handle production well to welcome our initiation into the commune." Such initiative as this shows itself only when the working people see themselves masters of the country and when they have interest of the collective at heart.

I have witnessed this transformation: from slaves of the machines the workers have become the masters of the machines. The campaign launched by women workers to handle the machine repairs bears the most eloquent testimony to this fact. Formerly women workers only tended machines. Whenever there was a machine breakdown, they had to wait for maintenance to make the repairs.

With the intention of raising working efficiency, Huang Pao-mei thought that the best way was for the women workers to handle the repair of the machines themselves. But the maintenance workers disagreed. They thought that women workers could not handle machine repair work. A debate ensued on whether or not people should be the masters of machines. The outcome was that women workers learned how to repair machines and the machines were repaired immediately when any breakdown occurred, thus greatly enhancing work efficiency.

A campaign to follow the example of Huang Pao-mei so that everyone can master machinery is now in full swing in the entire state-owned No. 17 cotton mill. Once workers become masters of machines, they will always be more able to create and invent machines. An old worker of the repair shop of the state-owned No. 17 cotton mill invented an electrostatic yarn-spinning machine which can spin fine yarn directly from cotton. It was said that there was such an invention in a capitalist country, but that the capitalists thought it harmful to their exploitation of profits, so they bought it and destroyed it.

At the same time, as workers have become masters of the machines, peasants have also become masters of the soil. There is a saying now prevailing among the peasants: "The soil will produce in proportion to the audacity of the people," that is to say, the amount of crop yield is determined by man, not as in former times solely by heaven and by the soil. The high-yielding rice and cotton crops in the "big 1" people's commune are such as I could hardly dare to imagine in the past.

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It happened that alongside the high-yielding cotton field was a plot of cotton owned by an individual farmer. The peasants were heard saying: "The cotton plants of the commune are as high as a man, while the cotton plants of the individual peasants are a mere foot high." What a striking contrast.

The entire cultivated ground presented a fascinating scene. On the edges of the fields and along the roadides flags were fluttering, songs sung by the peasants filled the air, heavy smoke was oozing from innumerable kilns for preparing smoked manure, peasants were deep plowing the soil and accumulating fertilizer. They wanted to turn the soil over thoroughly and supply it with adequate nourishment so that more advances would be made in agricultural production and grain output would be doubled next year.

The life of former days in which the peasants were bound to the soil and left at the mercy of fate, and the former conservative thinking of small peasant economy have all been discarded with scarcely any trace left. In its place are the spirit of thinking boldly and doing boldly and the new peasantry, who command the earth and harness nature.

What is more, the working people today have become the masters not only of production, but also of culture. The state-owned No. 17 cotton mill eliminated illiteracy in the course of six days and immediately set up a red and expert school. Over 5,000 workers are now attending school, and they aim to attain the level of textile institute graduates in the course of our years.

As soon as the workers are off duty, the school begins its political, cultural, and technical activities, which are closely connected with production. The workers have set up schools for they want to become not only masters of production, but also masters of culture; factories not only produce material wealth, but also cultivate the new people of communism. When Shanghai was liberated, Huang Pao-mei was illiterate. Now she is a student of the fifth class in the red and expert school. She is not only skilled in production and a model worker, but often writes for the newspapers.

She is a member of the Shaoning opera troupe of the mill. In the film "Huang Pao-mei" depicting her own life story, she acted her own part and is generally considered a remarkable actress. Now the workers of the mill have collectively written a play called "From 36 Work Shifts to Only Four." There are others who write poems, and recently many poems have been written around the theme "days and nights."

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In the "July 1" people's commune, the liberation of illiterates is almost complete and a red and expert school has been set up. Field wall newspapers and field cultural performances have come into being, giving great inspiration to production. A performance festival by the whole commune and an athletic meet by the whole commune are being prepared. I have eaten in the public service restaurant of the state-owned No. 1 cotton mill and in the public service restaurant of the "July 1" people's commune. The food was satisfactory and the cleanliness and hygiene were good. The service restaurant of the 10th production brigade of the "July 1" people's commune is situated in the Chuchen village, which is already a "Seven no's" village meaning there are no rats, flies, mosquitoes, sparrows, fleas, etc. As a result of the environmental hygiene campaign (HCH). During meal times, the broadcasting station of the commune broadcasts music and later announces commune production news.

The working people have become masters of culture. Manual workers are rapidly mastering cultural knowledge. This, coupled with one other aspect which I witnessed--all creative workers of factories going to workshops to take part in science and personnel government organizations and young students going to the rural areas and workshops to participate in manual work--will gradually eliminate the difference between mental and manual work. I have seen that people who are workers or peasants are at the same time poets, actors or actresses, or inventors. This shows that the working people are the most gifted, and once they have mastered cultural knowledge, they will be strengthened by limitless power, and consequently there is nothing on earth which they cannot do.

Thirdly, I have also been deeply impressed by the liberation of women. The mass of women have been liberated from the drudgery of household work and participate in social and production work. They have attained an equal status with men. They have equal opportunity to participate in work, they are given equal pay for equal work. In this way the labor power of women is thoroughly liberated, and this is a great change for them. Seventy percent of all the workers in the state-owned No. 1 cotton mill are women. Of the 30,000 strong labor force in the "July 1" people's commune, over 20,000 are women--many men in the outskirts work in factories in Shanghai. It is these women who have created miracles in work.

The emancipation of women can be seen more clearly, especially since the establishment of communes. Before the communes were formed, although women could take part in work, they were greatly tied down by household tasks--they had to cook, feed the children, sew clothes, do the laundry, etc.--and so were not on an equal footing with men.

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Since the founding of communes, people live collectively, there are public service restaurants where one can eat, nurseries where children are looked after; there are even people especially engaged in doing the laundry, and it follows that only under such conditions can the labor power of women be regarded as truly liberated.

I met many women this time, a vice-director of the factory, a secretary of the party committee, a secretary of the Youth League committee, model women workers, brigade leaders, women workers and peasants, young women and old. I did not find in them those feelings of inferiority in relation to men that they tended to have in the past. They are frank and cheerful, boldly speaking up and boldly doing things, and display tremendous energy. Look at the girls active in the fields, so little, so vigorous, and their whole being resplendent with the charm of work; one cannot help but be reminded that people's esthetic views have changed. Fragile, slender, and sentimental girls that the exploiting classes regard as pretty are ugly and degenerate to the working people.

I remember what Chairman Mao Tse-tung said recently: "Unless there are 500 to 1,000 kilograms of grain (per person?) every year, unless there are public service restaurants, old people's homes and nurseries, unless illiteracy is wiped out and unless they can enter primary and middle schools and universities, women still cannot be thoroughly emancipated." The work which we are undertaking today, and only such work as ours, can really achieve the aim of emancipating women completely.

In a word, it is because of the combination of the correct leadership of the CCP and Chairman Mao Tse-tung with the tremendous energy of the masses of people that the present situation of the great leap forward has been created. This is an era of the great liberation of the productive forces, an era of the great liberation of ideology, an era in which relations between man and man and the spiritual side of people are undergoing profound changes, an era in which miracles appear.

In less than one year, the output of major industrial and agricultural goods has increased by 100 percent. This was hitherto unthinkable, either in China or abroad, and it is precisely we who are setting this record; the mass of the people are working selflessly with nobody compelling them, without considering working hours, working conditions, and remuneration, and feeling peace of mind although working hard day and night.

Personnel of government organizations and intellectuals participate in manual work, the classrooms of schools are extended to workshops and farms, leading personnel of factories are going to the machines to work alongside the workers. "Labor", which was formerly regarded as something ignoble has become an honorable thing; "labor", from man's obligation, has become man's right.

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The great mass of people want to become masters of culture. The working people want to be well-versed in both culture and production; factories produce poems, cinema films, innovations and inventions; farms produce wall newspapers, cultural performances, agricultural science. People's communes are emerging in our country; the idea of the 500 million peasants is not only to build socialism but also to build communism.

All these are miracles and at the same time historical necessities. Such are the facts. A written description falls short of the facts and cannot by any means overstate them. Deliberate distortions and slanders by the imperialists and reactionaries seem only pitiful and ridiculous; flimsy clouds can never overshadow the sun!

The great leap forward in our country is a historical necessity, the result of the correct leadership of the glorious CCP. Through the rectification campaign, the prestige of the party among the people has become unprecedentedly high. With every campaign, the party brings the ideology of the masses to a new, higher level, and the masses trust the party more fully and rally around it all the more. The more long-sighted the view the masses take, the greater their efforts. What the mass of people see now is not only that the building of socialism will be completed rapidly, but also that the transition to a communist society is not so distant.

Under the leadership of the CCP the 600 million Chinese people are united as one; where the party points the way, there the people go. Relying on this strength, we shall be able to make the high mountains bow and big rivers give way, achieve an abundance of food and clothing in not too long a time, and overtake and outstrip, within a few years time, the production level of the advanced capitalist countries in the world. Relying on this strength, we shall be able to make big contributions to the cause of world peace.

American imperialism is creating tension in the Taiwan Strait and furiously carrying on war provocations against us. This will only hasten its own end. With the assistance of peace-loving people the world over, the 600 million Chinese people are tightening the noose around the neck of American imperialism on the one hand, and carrying out the great leap forward in production on the other. Therefore, we have the strength and confidence to liberate Taiwan and the offshore islands, and we have the full strength and confidence to ultimately unify all the territory of our country, in order to safeguard peace in the Far East and throughout the world.

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May 5, 1958

This is an era in which communist ideology is flourishing, an era in which the people have become the masters. With the party as their leader, the people will destroy all backward things. Imperialism and reactionaries will be cleared away by the people like rubbish. The people will construct a brand new socialist society which people have been dreaming about for centuries but have not yet achieved; a society founded on the principle of "from each according to his ability and to each according to his needs," in which all inequalities are eliminated, in which social products are in great abundance, and which the people's moral quality is lofty; a society which once and for all achieves lasting peace--a communist society.

We are living in such a glorious era and we have such splendid people. Let us use the most beautiful voices to sing the praise of our people, let us impel this era to advance swiftly towards the more brilliant tomorrow!

CPR MINERAL WEALTH SHOWN AT EXHIBITION

Peking, Chinese International Service in Spanish to Latin America,
Oct. 29, 1958, 0200 GMT--W (UNCLASSIFIED)

(Excerpts) We continue from Peking with the national industry and communications exposition. The exposition without precedent in Chinese history, presents a real panorama of the brilliant successes attained in industry and communications in our country during the past nine years, and especially during this current year. In one of its exhibition halls, samples of mineral wealth in our subsoil are on display.

It is true that China is rich in minerals. However, during the days prior to liberation, the reactionary governing class yielded this wealth, together with the national sovereignty, to the imperialists, who, as they sacked our wealth, sowed the lie that despite her vast territory, China was lacking in mineral wealth and was poor in copper and iron, lacked petroleum and had little coal.

Today, when our people are constructing socialism and are industrializing our country with giant steps, work on subsoil exploration is keeping pace with the progress in other fields in the country. The exposition, diagram after diagram, brings in relief the clear contrast between the present and the past. Since the liberation, 71 kinds of minerals have been located. This is more than four times as many as those located during a 50-year period prior to liberation.